



Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services



HEALTH ALERT NETWORK

Advisory



TO: Nebraska Healthcare Providers & Laboratories

FROM: Thomas J. Safraneck, M.D. Annette Bredthauer, DVM, MPH Joann Schaefer, M.D.
State Epidemiologist State Entomologist Chief Medical Officer

PHONE/FAX: 402-471-2937/402-471-3601

RE: Arboviral Infections in Nebraska

DATE: September 14, 2010

In early August a veterinary diagnostic lab reported a positive test for Eastern Equine Encephalitis in a Keith County horse. While awaiting confirmatory testing, this event underscores the need for providers to consider the entire range of arboviral infections in the differential diagnosis when caring for individuals with viral/aseptic meningitis/encephalitis. When West Nile virus and the endemic non-arboviral agents such as enterovirus and herpes simplex virus have been ruled out, clinicians need to consider other arboviruses such as Eastern Equine Encephalitis, St. Louis Encephalitis, Western Equine Encephalitis, and the California serogroup viral encephalitides. Clinicians seeing patients with viral meningitis/encephalitis whose laboratory tests for WNV, HSV, and enterovirus are negative should report the case to your local or state health department. We will coordinate additional arboviral testing for these novel agents. Preferred specimens include either CSF or paired serum specimens which should be forwarded to the Nebraska Public Health Laboratory. Patients fitting this profile who were seen earlier this summer should be reported to local or state public health. Please contact (402) 471-2937 for additional questions.